

ABSTRACT

A pressure cleaning vessel \downarrow is connected to a vacuum chamber P by way of a connecting pipe in the sterilizing and cleaning equipment which that utilizes a supercritical fluid. The objects to be treated is-are impregnated, for a given period, in the supercritical fluid with which the pressure cleaning vessel \downarrow has been filled. Thereafter, the connection between the pressure vessel \downarrow and the vacuum chamber P is opened so as to generate sudden bubbling within the vessel \downarrow as a result of a large pressure difference. Thorough sterilization is achieved at the time when the supercritical fluid having penetrated into bacteria and viruses suddenly explodes and destroys these organisms instantly by its power of vaporization and expansion.